

Kaufman et al.

S/N: 10/605,450

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed September 8, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Arantes et al. (USP 5,512,726). The Examiner next rejected claims 10 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arantes et al. taken with Lanouette et al. (USP 6,563,085). Claims 7 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Claims 7 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arantes et al. taken with Lanouette et al., and further in view of either one of Ihde et al. (USP 6,627,849) or Blankenship (USP 5,357,076). Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Arantes et al. taken with Lanouette et al. and taken with either one of Ihde et al. or Blankenship.

The Examiner indicated that claims 3 and 18 would be allowable if re-written in independent form and to include the subject matter of any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant refers the Examiner to the amendments made above wherein claims 3 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form and include the subject matter of any intervening claims. As such, Applicant believes claims 3 and 18 as well as those claims depending therefrom to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant requests entry and consideration of claims 23-30 newly presented herein to further define the invention. Given the art of record, it is believed that which is called for in claims 23-30 to be patentably distinct and therefore in condition for allowance.

Applicant has directed the cancellation of claims 1, 2, 17, and 22. Claim 10 has been amended to correct its dependency in light of the cancellation of claim 1.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 11-16 are allowable.

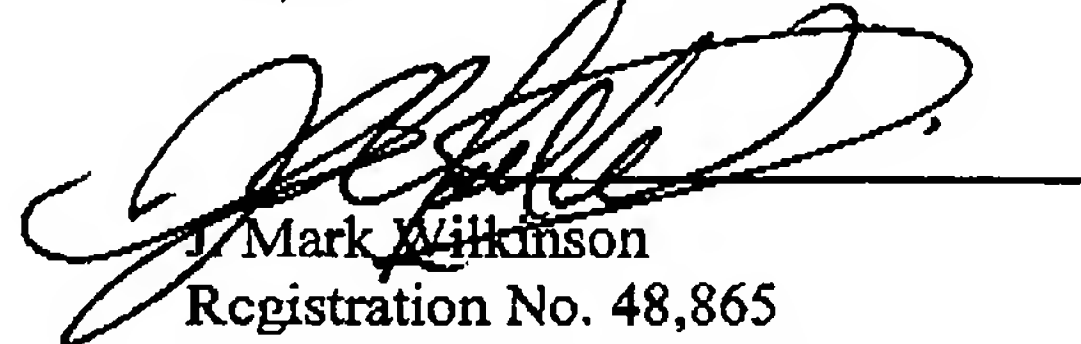
Therefore, in light of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 3-16, 18-21, and 23-30.

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Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: September 30, 2004  
Attorney Docket No.: ITW7510.072

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